

REMARKS

The above-identified application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 14, 2007. By the present amendment, the applicant has amended claims 25 and 27-32. In addition, the applicant has added new claim 33 for consideration. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims add no new matter, are fully supported by the specification, and are allowable over the cited references of record.

The Office Action stated that the pending application included claims directed towards two distinct species. According to the Office Action, the pending claims were directed towards the species illustrated in Figures 18 and 18A as well as the species shown in Figures 18B and 18C. The Office Action further asserted that the species are independent or distinct because they differ significantly in structure. Further still, the Office Action stated that the applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits and that none of the pending claims are generic.

In response thereto, the applicant provisionally elects the species shown in Figures 18 and 18A for prosecution on the merits. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4-9, 13, and 16-33 read at least on the elected species. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 25 is generic to both of the species identified in the Office Action. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests the examination of claims 1, 4-9, 13, and 16-33 on the merits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the application, namely claims 1, 4-9, 13, and 16-33, are in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/729,634

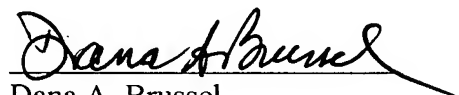
Response dated December 14, 2007

Reply to Office Action Mailed November 14, 2007

Should the Examiner believe that an interview may facilitate the resolution of any outstanding issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below. Early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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